GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:148
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2000
INDO-US TIES
P.R. KHUTE;RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by India and the USA to foster closer relationship in pursuance of the MOUs and agreements signed during the US President`s visit to New Delhi, in March this year; and

(b) the measures contemplated to be taken to boost further co-operation between the two countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) During the visit of the US President Clinton to India in March 2000, Prime Minister and the US President issued a Joint Statement outlining their vision of the relationship between India and the United States in the 21st Century. As part of this Vision, they also agreed upon an architecture of a wide ranging, institutional dialogue between the two countries. The two sides also signed an Agreement to set up a Science and Technology Forum and a Joint Statement on Co-operation in Energy and Environment.

The two sides have worked purposefully together to implement the Dialogue Architecture with a view to deepening understanding between the two sides and intensifying co-operation across the full range of bilateral activities. Meetings have already taken place of the bilateral forums established under the Dialogue Architecture, the Agreement on Science and Technology Forum and the Joint Statement on Co-operation in Energy and Environment.

(b) Prime Minister has accepted the invitation of the US President to visit the United States in September. This visit is expected to further contribute towards establishing a closer and qualitatively new relationship, as also to strengthening co-operation between India and the United States, in accordance with the Vision Statement.